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Educational Philosophy’s

My first educational philosopher that I agree with is Albert Einstein, specifically one famous quote of his that says “Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it is stupid.” I think this is a significant quote because it relates to the corruption in the school system in modern society. The school system forces students to do things that do not come naturally to them. Personally, I have always excelled in English. I love to read and I love to write and it has always come so easily to me. But as a tradeoff I have always struggled in math. The way my high school was set up you could take a course at the college rep level or the honors level and usually the levels were divided by the how well you understood the material but instead by how motivated you were to learn. Because of this I was usually in the honors math classes because I did not want to be in a class with students that had behavioral problems and no desire to pay attention. For four years of math I suffered through honors algebra and pre calc. My parents spent money on tutor every week and I spent many hours crying in my room over math homework that would never make sense. I understand and appreciate challenging yourself but I have known since elementary school I do not want to go into a field with anything to do with math so I do not understand why I had to suffer through so many math classes. The high school system is flawed because students have to take classes on material they are not interested in and are not good at just to earn credit. I have never felt more stupid than the day when my math teacher introduced the unit circle. I have come to realize through, I am not stupid. I am just being judged on something that is not my strong point. If I got to take all my classes on subjects I liked, school would be much more enjoyable and I would not feel like a fish trying to climb a tree.

Second, I found a quote from a philosopher named Euripides that says “Learned we may be with another man’s learning: we can only be wise with wisdom of our own.” This quote really spoke to me because I am a hands on learner. I have never been able to sit in a classroom, listen to the teacher lecture and leave with the feeling that I had learned something. I learn the best from watching demonstrations, going on field trips and other hand on learning experiences. And I know this quote is talking about wisdom too. I think there are some things that you need to learn on your own which school does not always allow us to do. My senior year I took a health class where we got to work with one of the special needs classes. At the end of the trimester we performed a talent show with them. I went on stage and danced with to High School Musical with a couple of my friends and one of the girls in the class that we had gotten to know. It was embarrassing and definitely out of my comfort zone but it was okay because it was not about me. It was about the kids in the other class. And the girl that we danced with was so happy and had so much fun that it made it so worth it. Sometimes you need to remember that it is not all about you. That was such an important lesson and one that I still value today. It was definitely something I had to learn firsthand for myself and not something that I would have learned from reading a text book.